

## Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /096 W

----- 030249

P R 121040Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5459

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0876

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MR KS

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN-KOREAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 144, (B) SEOUL 810, (C) CASABLANCA 202,  
(D) NOUAKCHOTT 396, (E) CASABLANCA 237, (F) NOUAKCHOTT 464,  
(G) STATE 48859, (H) SEOUL 1601, (I) NOUAKCHOTT 546, (J)  
NOUAKCHOTT 676, (K) NOUAKCHOTT 765, (L) SEOUL 2482,  
(M) NOUAKCHOTT 823, (N) DAKAR 2134 (ALL NOTAL)

1. AS REFTELS SUGGEST, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE REPORTING  
AND DISCUSSION OF SOUTH KOREAN FISHING ACTIVITY IN MAURITANIAN  
WATERS, RECENT DIFFICULTIES FACED BY NORTH KOREANS IN MAURI-  
TANIA, AND EFFORTS BY SOUTH KOREA TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SITUA-  
TION. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES  
IN SEOUL, DAKAR, RABAT, AND PARIS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN  
ONE FORM OR ANOTHER IN EFFORT TO IMPROVE SOUTH KOREAN POSITION  
IN MAURITANIA. IN ADDITION, PRIVATE SOUTH KOREAN FISHERES  
REP MADE VISIT TO NOUAKCHOTT. WE JUDGE THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE  
COORDINATION OF THIS GEOGRAPHICALLY WIDE SPREAD EFFORT BY  
SOUTH KOREANS. IF ROKG EXPECTS TO ACHIEVE  
ANY DEGREE OF SUCCESS, OUR FIRST SUGGESTION WOULD BE FOR  
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ROKG TO IMPROVE COORDINATING MECHANISM.

2. WE HAVE TRIED TO EMPHASIZE IN OUR RECENT REPORTING THAT PROBLEMS FACED BY NORTH KOREA IN MAURITANIA DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY BENEFIT SOUTH KOREA. WE HAVE NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER THAT GIRM IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT FORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ROKG. IN FACT, WE ASSUME GIRM POLICY ON KOREAN QUESTION REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. IF ROKG IS PREPARED TO MOVE CAREFULLY AND SLOWLY, SOUTH KOREA MAY, IN VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, BE ABLE TO IMPROVE ITS POSITION IN MAURITANIA BY ESTABLISHING FISHING OR COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN NOUADHIBOU. THERE IS OUTSIDE CHANCE THAT GIRM MIGHT ACCEPT ROKG CONSULAR OFFICE IN NOUADHIBOU. BUT CHANCES OF ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE VIRTUALLY NIL RPT NIL.

3. CURRENT STATUS OF KOREAN SITUATION IN MAURITANIA IS CONTAINED IN NOUAKCHOTT 765 (SENT DAKAR) AND NOUAKCHOTT 823 (REPEATED DAKAR).HANDYSIDE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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